

the Memphis State Tigers to the NCAA Tournament finals as a teammate, and then coached the team to its greatest number of wins, was also from Orange Mound and attended Melrose High School.

Other notable Melrose alumni athletes include 1968 to 1971 NFL player Sam Walton, who played for the New York Jets when they won Super Bowl III; Ronnie Robinson, who played at MSU with Larry Finch and helped lead the team to the 1973 Final Four; Melrose 1974 state champion and MSU point guard Alvin Wright, who also helped MSU to a four year record of 80–34; John “Big John” Gunn played for MSU from 1974 to 1976; power forward for MSU and 1979 NBA Round 2 draft pick James Bradley; All-American William Bedford who also played in the NBA from 1986 to 1993; and NFL player Jerome Woods from 1996 to 2005.

Melrose High School has also graduated top scholars, including Dellarontay Readus. Dellarontay scored a 31 on the ACT, is Melrose’s class of 2015 valedictorian and was awarded a full academic scholarship by Stanford University. Melrose has also graduated three “all college expenses paid” Bill Gates Scholars.

In addition to being home to many Memphis greats, Orange Mound has served as a hub for live music and entertainment. The W.C. Handy Theater located on Park Avenue was built by a group of Memphis businessmen and was a popular entertainment attraction for several years. Such premier acts of the day included Count Basie, Sarah Vaughan, Lionel Hampton, and Memphis legends B.B. King, Bukka White and Willie Mitchell. Internationally famed jazz saxophonist and CEO of the Soulsville Foundation, Kirk Whalum, got his start in music playing for the Melrose High School band.

Religion has also been central to the Orange Mound community. It is the only community in America with six churches over 100 years old and many more that are over 75 years old. Particularly well-known churches include Mt. Pisgah CME Church at the corner of Park Avenue and Marchaneil, which was founded in the late 1870s and played a role in assisting activists during the Civil Rights Movement, and Mount Moriah Baptist Church, which was founded in 1879 before moving to its present-day location at the corner of David and Carnes Streets in 1883. Today, descendants of the founders of many churches in Orange Mound still attend these historic houses of worship and serve in the community.

Since 1990, Memphis has played host to the Southern Heritage Classic football game between Tennessee State University and Jackson State University at the Liberty Bowl Stadium, which helps form the northern border of Orange Mound. In that same year, the Orange Mound Parade Committee was formed to honor Memphian Fred Jones for his dedicated work in establishing the Southern Heritage Classic. As the Congressman for Tennessee’s Ninth District, which includes Orange Mound, I have been honored to participate in this parade as it travels down Park Avenue and passes Melrose High School, homes, local businesses and Orange Mound’s historic churches. I have met with the residents of Orange Mound and am always inspired by their commitment to the revitalization and renaissance of this historic community in America.

In commemoration of the anniversary, the United States Postal Office has issued a spe-

cial postmark cancellation honoring Orange Mound. It was designed by the residents of Orange Mound and I was happy to work with the new Memphis Postmaster, Jennifer Vo, to make this a reality. As the first all African-American community in America that has been home to many internationally known African-Americans who have contributed to American culture, the Orange Mound community is truly part of American history and is deserving of this special recognition. As such, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 125th anniversary of Orange Mound in Memphis, Tennessee.

RECOGNIZING MARY AGEE ON HER  
RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT  
AND CEO OF NORTHERN VIR-  
GINIA FAMILY SERVICE

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2015*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mary Agee and her service as president and CEO of Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS). She will step down in June after leading the agency, with distinction, for 27 years.

The organization we know today as the NVFS originated in 1924 in Alexandria, Virginia, as an organization with one volunteer and no operating budget. Mary Agee joined the staff of this organization as a family counselor in 1972 and rose to the position of deputy director in 1978. When she received this promotion NVFS had 11 staff and an annual operating budget of \$178,000. Under her leadership the organization grew to its current size of 350 employees, 3,600 volunteers and operating budget of \$32 million. NVFS is now the largest private, nonprofit human service organization in Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, every year, almost 34,000 families and individuals utilize the human service programs offered by NVFS which include: housing and emergency services, early childhood programs, health & mental health services, workforce development programs legal assistance, anti-hunger programs, and intervention & prevention programs. The NVFS has taken an aggressive role supporting community partnerships under the leadership of Mary Agee and has been able to collaborate with other human services agencies to provide comprehensive multi-agency service provisions for their clients. NVFS’s dedicated approach to serving others has earned them an impeccable reputation for their ability to stabilize and assist families in crisis. They are truly angels in our community.

Following the devastating September 11th Terrorist Attacks at the Pentagon, NVFS was selected by the Community Foundation of the National Capital Area to manage the 9/11 Survivors’ Fund. Mary Agee has said that the ability of the NVFS to directly provide the families of the victims of the attack with vital human services is the proudest moment in her nearly four decades of service to her community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Mary Agee upon her retirement from the Northern Virginia Family Service. Her dedicated hard work and service in the Northern Virginia

Community has touched and improved the lives of countless families and individuals. We know she will continue to provide years of service to her community in whatever she chooses to do and we sincerely thank her for her service, and wish her the best on all future endeavors.

HONORING DR. ALAN RAY

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2015*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. S. Alan Ray. After seven years of exemplary service as President of Elmhurst College he will be retiring in June of this year.

Since beginning his tenure at Elmhurst College in July of 2008, he has been vital to the development and execution of many transformative projects. On his first day he announced the first strategic planning process in the school’s history. This plan set the ground work for the many improvements that would follow.

Under Dr. Ray’s leadership, Elmhurst College has improved its standing in the Chicago Metropolitan area by forming partnerships with John Marshall Law School, Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare, Roosevelt University, and a variety of other institutions. Elmhurst College has also seen an increase in diversity, with a 20% increase in students of color during his 7 years.

In 2012, the School for Professional Studies was launched under the supervision of Dr. Ray. This new school is a source of graduate education as well as adult learning. These opportunities help those already in the workforce to remain competitive in our ever-changing economy.

I invite my colleagues to join me honoring Dr. S. Alan Ray for the work he has done for Elmhurst College, his community, and this great nation by helping to improve the lives of thousands of students. We thank him for his invaluable service, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ASIAN-PACIFIC  
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN  
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2015*

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. I extend my warm wishes to all Asian-Pacific Americans (APA), whose contributions to our society cannot be understated. From our unique culture, culinary practices and art, to the construction of vital infrastructure and contributions to science and technology, APA’s have always been at the forefront of American innovation.

In 1977, Congress declared the first week of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage week; and in 1992 passed a resolution that set aside the entire month to recognize APA’s and the many contributions that they have made to American culture, science and industry.